

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph that begins on Page 23, line 18 and carries over to Page 24, line 12 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

— The logic with which this process operates is depicted in more detail in Fig. 4. At 401, the user initiates the synchronization process by connecting to the synchronization agent. The agent then prompts the user (402) to enter his/her security credentials. The user provides those credentials (403), and the agent then performs the validation by communicating with the master registry (404). A test is made to determine whether the validation was successful (405); if not, an error is preferably reported to the user (409). The user may be given another chance to re-enter the credentials, if desired (not shown in Fig. 4); preferably, a relatively low upper limit is imposed on the number of times the user is allowed to retry the operation, in order to prevent security exposures such as brute force attacks. When the validation was successful, the password synchronization policy is interrogated (406) to see (407) if this user's credentials are to be propagated to one or more other registries. If so, then the credentials which the user entered at 403 are forwarded to those target registries (408). A message is preferably provided to the user (409) indicating that the propagation has occurred, or that there were no propagation targets registered. The processing of Fig. 4 then ends. —